



# HARDWOOD TREE PLANTING

## Michigan CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM CRP – CP3A

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

March 2011



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

### WHAT IS A HARDWOOD TREE PLANTING?

A Hardwood Tree Planting is a planting of deciduous trees beneficial to wildlife.

Hardwood Tree Plantings provide wildlife habitat, aesthetic values, and protection of the soil from erosion. Some trees established or managed in a Hardwood Tree Planting can also provide timber and/or wood fiber products after the CRP contract expires.

### ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for this practice with the General or Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, the land must have a cropping history (4 out of 6 years from 2002-2007). Further, for the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, the land must be within 2000 feet of an approved public wellhead.

### CRP POLICY

CRP Hardwood Tree Plantings will be installed according to the Tree/Shrub Planting Standard (612) in the local Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

For General CRP, if the National Ranking score for the cover type factor is 50 points, a combination of at least 3 native mast producing trees beneficial to wildlife will be planted. If the National Ranking score for the cover type factor is 30 points, at least 2 native mast trees will be planted. If the National Ranking score for the cover type factor is 20 points, at least 1 mast-producing tree will be planted. If the National Ranking score for the cover type factor is 10 points, only Non-Mast producing

tree will be planted. Examples of mast-producing trees are those that produce fruit/nuts such as oaks, walnut, hickory, maples, black cherry, etc. Non-mast trees include willows, cottonwoods, etc.

Tree species selected for the planting will be adapted to the site conditions (see Conservation Tree/Shrub Suitability Groups in Sect II of FOTG) and meet the standards in the local FOTG. Only viable, high quality planting stock will be used.

If needed for wildlife habitat or nurse trees, up to 50% of the planting may be softwoods. However, each species (hardwood &/or softwood) must be at least 10% but no more than 50% of the planting.

### PLANTING

It is very important to plant trees into a weed-free, firm seedbed. If the field is currently in cropland, weed control efforts should begin prior to planting. Use herbicide or tillage to eliminate competing vegetation. If necessary for erosion control, seed a temporary cover. Eliminate the temporary vegetation at planting time with tillage or herbicides.

**If the field is currently in sod**, begin weed control efforts using broad-spectrum herbicides in the fall. Apply herbicides again after the spring green-up prior to planting (if possible, a prescribed burn prior to spring green up to remove the dead litter from the fall treatment will provide best results).

All trees must be planted within 1 year of the contract approval date, unless the planting is greater than 10 acres. Then, the producer can elect to plant the trees over a 3-year period as long as at least 1/3 of the trees are planted in years 1 and 2, and included in the plan.

Plantings using bare-rooted stock and non-rooted cuttings should be completed in the spring after the ground thaws, but no later than June 1; or planted in the fall after October 1 until the ground freezes when soil moisture is adequate. Containerized and balled and burlap stock may be planted between October 1 and June 1 as local soil moisture and weather conditions permit. Direct seeding will be completed from October 1 through April 30 as local soil moisture and weather conditions permit.

Plant trees according to the attached design sheet. Plantings using bare-rooted stock and non-rooted cuttings should be completed in the spring after the ground thaws, but no later than June 1; or planted in the fall after October 1 until the ground freezes when soil moisture is adequate. Containerized and balled

and burlap stock may be planted between October 1 and June 1 as local soil moisture and weather conditions permit. Direct seeding will be completed from October 1 through April 30 as local soil moisture and weather conditions permit.

Weed Control is also important to ensure survival and maximum growth of the trees after they are planted. Cost-share is authorized for one weed control application within 24 months after the trees are planted. A 2 ft radius around each tree should remain weed-free to maximize tree growth. **Mowing is not allowed for weed control for trees.**

For additional information on herbicide controls, contact your local MSU Extension Agent. **Always apply herbicides according to labeled directions.**

## CONSIDERATIONS

For optimum wildlife habitat, plant a diversity of trees. This will provide winter cover, dens, and food sources.

Following is a list of trees beneficial to wildlife that are eligible for CP3A. Consult the local FOTG for more information and other species that may be used.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>
Beech, American	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>
Birch, Yellow	<i>Betula allegheniensis</i>
Cherry, Black	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
Cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>
Hickory, Bitternut	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>
Hickory, Shagbark	<i>Carya ovata</i>
Hickory, Shellbark	<i>Carya laciniosa</i>
Hickory, Pignut	<i>Carya glabra</i>
Maple, Sugar	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
Oak, Black	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
Oak, Bur	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
Oak, Northern Red	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Oak, Pin	<i>Quercus palustris</i>
Oak, Swamp White	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>
Oak, White	<i>Quercus alba</i>
Poplar, Yellow	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>
Walnut, Black	<i>Juglans nigra</i>

## OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid detrimental effects to the surrounding land. Some of the most common pests that need controlled on CRP acreage include Autumn Olive, Multiflora Rose, Spotted Knapweed, Quackgrass, etc.

**After** the Final Status Review, maintain the planting according to your CRP conservation plan. Maintenance activities are allowed only on a spot basis and only if necessary to maintain stand health, maintain stand

diversity, or control pests that will damage the CRP cover or adjacent lands. Maintenance activities are only allowed between August 1 – May 1 (i.e. - outside of the Primary Nesting and Brood-Rearing season). If maintenance activities are needed at times other than these, the FSA County Committee **must** approve the maintenance activity **prior to** the activity occurring.

Damaging pests need to be monitored and controlled. Repellents, poisons, tubing, netting and cages of various kinds may be needed to control rodents, deer, and other pests. **Limited cost-share may be authorized for these components.**

The Hardwood Tree Planting should be inspected on a seasonal basis and following major storm and runoff events. Any damages or sediment accumulation that would adversely impair the function of the planting must be corrected immediately, at the landowner's expense.

Replacement of dead trees will be needed until the planting is functional. The landowner is responsible for replacement costs. Re-planting will be required when less than 80% of all plants are living, or they are not evenly distributed over the planting.

Trees and shrubs will be protected from fire, insects, disease, and animals until established.

Supplemental watering may be desirable to ensure adequate survival.

Pruning may be required to remove damaged, diseased or unwanted limbs to improve health and quality. Refer to Michigan NRCS Std. # 660-Tree/Shrub Pruning for further details.

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# HARDWOOD TREE PLANTING DESIGN WORKSHEET CRP CP3A

Landowner:

County:

Farm:

Tract:

Field(s):

Acres:

Date:

## REQUIREMENTS

### DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:

(Soils information is based on the FOTG, Section II-Forestry Interpretations)

Predominant Soil Type(s):  = Site Index (with planned species):

## REQUIRED SPACING

SPACING WITHIN THE ROWS =                      FEET BETWEEN TREES  
 SPACING BETWEEN THE ROWS =                      FEET BETWEEN ROWS

## RECOMMENDED TREES

## # NEEDED

## BEFORE PLANTING in Year :

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herbicide <sub>1</sub> ( <b>per label</b> ): | Dates = |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herbicide <sub>2</sub> ( <b>per label</b> ): | Dates = |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tillage:                                     | Dates = |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Seeding:                           |         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                                       |         |

## PLANTING METHOD in Year

- ☐ **Tree Planting Method:**                      :
- (If unforeseen circumstances prohibit the planting of the trees/shrubs by this date, please contact our office as soon as possible)
- ☐ Other:

## TREE POST-PLANTING MAINTENANCE for Pest Control

- ☐ **Maintain a 9 ft<sup>2</sup> weed & grass-free area around each tree for up to 3 years for optimal growth\*\***
- ☐ Tree/Shrub Herbicide\*\* (**per label**):                      Dates\*\* =
- ☐ Other:\*\*

**\*\*NOTE:** after the Final Status Review has been issued, other maintenance activities will be conducted between August 1 & May 1, and weeds will be treated on a "spot" basis only, unless prior approval is granted by the County Committee.

**LOCATION AND LAYOUT SKETCH & Additional Information**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Practice Details for the CP3A Practice identified above meets the Technical Specifications required for CRP Policy, NRCS Standards and Specifications, and Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources Service Forester

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I(we) agree to implement the CP3A practice according to the technical requirements contained in this sheet, the CRP Conservation Plan, and all other attached information. Any changes to the technical requirements will be approved by the MI DNR, FSA County Committee, and NRCS.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CRP Participant(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date